Locust Grove,
Aug. 26. 1865

My dear Sir,

I will endeavor to call and see the "gas apparatus" at your Office some day next week when I am in town.

Respectfully
Yours
Sam'l F. B. Morse

I. Tompkins Esq
"Poughkeepsie Teleg." Office
Poughkeepsie.

NA 1372

Poughkeepsie March 6.th 1851.—

My dear Sir,

I found yours of the 1.st inst. on my return. I have but a moment to write, so excuse its desultory character.

I have no idea of a forced sale of Stock in my hands as collateral security, nor ever had, except on contingencies not expected. What I do wish, however, is such a statement of my Telegraph affairs, that I may know how I stand with Mr. Kendall and all the world. I am at present in more straitened circumstances, than ever before Comparatively, from the perfect stagnation of all receipts from every quarter. Hence I wish to know my prospects & my liabilities, that I may be able to provide things honest in the sight of all men. My position is peculiar in this respect, that the profession of my life, whereby I lived, was sacrificed to establish the Telegraph; It is a profession that can scarcely be resumed after so long a recess, at my time of life. I am, therefore, dependent on the dividends of my Patent fee Stock. When these stop, I am without funds; you can easily see then, how heavily this dividend drought, presses upon me.—

I have ever had, and still have the most unbounded confidence in Mr. Kendall. Tell him when he returns that I have been hard at work almost day & night, in the preparation to meet

the adversaries of my Patent, at Phil.a in the next month, and have now every reason to believe, they will be discomfitted in that trial. They had calculated much on Prof. Renwick, Prof. Ellet, and Dr. Chilton, but I visited them when last down explained my experiments, they tried them, and all were found correct, so that instead of supporting Bain with his certificate of "two of Englands best chemists," their evidence will be in my favor. The counsel of Bain here, could not refrain from letting out to the Counsel of the Mag. Tel. Co. their mortification at the result, accusing us of tampering with their witnesses; in other words, by showing them the truth, preventing them from committing themselves on the side of error. —

Your enclosed note was sent to Miss Ruggles, my niece Miss Charlotte Morse, is not here. She returned with me to New York when I went down the last time. Elizabeth is well, and directs the household of her parents, with ease and good judgment, and it is a household of no small dimensions. —

Make my kindest regards to Miss Annie Ellsworth, to Mr & Mrs Smith, Dr & Mrs Gale and Dr & Mrs Page, and to Mr. Kendall and his family. —

I hope your own health will improve with the progress of the season. In April I shall probably visit Phil.a to be present at the trial, although I ought to be home at that time for special reasons. —

My sweet wife and her rosy boy, are well, and make delightful sunshine within, however dark, and lowering without. When I look at them, I feel many twinges of conscience, that my pen should ever record a word of repining against the Giver, the merciful giver of such blessings. —

But good bye

In haste but truly as ever

Your friend

Sam.l F.B. Morse.

Peter Schlemihl, Esq

1140.5

smt
749

To M. Arago.

Fine

My Dear Sir,

This note will be handed you by a young friend of mine, Mr. William A. Butler, of this city, the son of one of our most worthy and distinguished citizens, Benj.n F. Butler, Esq.r for many years occupying the responsible Station of Attorney General of the United States under the Presidency of General Jackson; Mr. Butler visits Paris for information on Literary & Scientific subjects, and although I am aware that a liberality unequalled in any other part of the world exists in Paris in regard to the freeness of access to all the Repositorys of Art & Science so concentrated there, yet may I ask your kind introduction for Mr. Butler to the Sessions of the Academy of Sciences, and such other places of scientific interest as he may wish. He is a gentleman of high character, and a numerous circle of friends feel the deepest interest in his welfare.

I have had the honor to communicate to you at various times the progress of my Telegraph in the U. States. Since my last communication, the Albany & Buffalo line which was in progress has been completed, 350 miles, and a letter just received from the Pres.t of the C.o says The N.Y. and Boston line is also completed, 200 miles, and by the 1.st of Aug. the N.Y. & Albany line (about 150 miles) will be completed. It works well. The line from New York to Wash.n 230 miles is in daily and successful operation. It is the medium

of all the most important intelligence from Congress the Seat of Gov.th, of much Commercial business, and Social correspondence. Already are the effects of the Telegraph manifest upon the Newspaper press both in the great Cities and the County villages of the Western part of New York State. The larger City Journals which were relied upon for the latest in the County intelligence, have become in this respect of little value, and consequently their subscribers diminish, while the country journals along the Telegraph line, having access instantly to the news the moment it arrives at any great City, have, I am told, doubled and even trebled their subscribers. In evidence of that I have said I refer you to the piece headed Ithaca Chronicle. All the Newspapers from the West have captions or headings to their columns "By Magnetic Telegraph" in large characters. I send you a Specimen or two to show you the usual style, and also the amount of matter which we usually transmit this being limited, ordinarily by the expense to those who employ the Telegraph, and not by the impracticability of sending more.—

I have been looking with much anxiety for the Report of the Commissioners both of the Academy of Sciences & of the Chamber of Deputies. From the dispositions already shown towards me in France and from the high character for honor of the French nation its cannot doubt of receiving ample justice at its hands.—

Believe me dear Sir
With the highest respect and personal esteem Yr Ob Servt
Saml F. B. Morse.
Superint. U. States
Magnetic Telegraph.

New York July 13. 1846.—

Letter to M. Arago
13 July
1846.

Autograph Collection of Dr. Max Thorek Chicago

Pough Keepsie

Drop

P'Keepsie July 22. 1851.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 19 inst. I have just received, and at the same time came in the N. York Herald of this morning, with an Article on Telegraph Stock.

From the tone of the Herald Article, (which I presume was written by some person so unfortunate as to own House or Bain Stock and for the purpose either of depreciating the Stock in my lines, or to effect a Consolidation of the abortive rival lines, opposing mine, that he may purchase with mine which rival lines are losing concerns, while mine are productive lines,) I should think there might be some timid stockholders in those of my lines in which your friend would wish to purchase who would under the influence of that article part with their stock at a price which, with my knowledge of the actual condition of it, I would not think a moment of parting with mine. — Instead of the "worst Stock in the country" (as the writer designates Telegraph Stock and which is doubtless true of the House & Bain Stock,) I consider the Stock in my lines as the best stock in the country, and feel willing to let my property rest in that stock, while of course I would not object to part with some of it for other property of equal value. —

I would part with $15,000.00 of my [redacted]
N. York, Alb— and Buffalo Stock at 95 cents
on the dollar. I would sell three hundred
shares (300.) of Stock in the Washington and
New Orleans line at 75 cents on the dollar.*
The price to consist of two thirds cash on
the transfer of the Stock, and the balance
of good bond & mortgage on real estate in
New York city. I will allow (5) five per
cent to you on the amount sold, only
provided the whole sale is satisfactorily
and entirely completed by the 15th of Aug-
ust, 1851. —

Your Obt Servt.
Sam'l F. B. Morse.

Letter of Prof Morse to exchanging some Telegraph Stock July 22. 1851.

* I have now no stock in the Mag. Teleg. Co.
(the Wash.n & N.York line.) —

4.

3152

Poughkeepsie, Jan'y. 31st 1857.-

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the first instant came duly to hand, and was mislaid much to my mortification, because I was sure you must think me strangely neglectful in not answering your promptly; and yet I could neither remember the name to whom, nor place to which, my answer was to be directed.

Upon examining the pocket of a coat that had been for some time carefully put away, your letter was brought to light, and I lose not a moment in replying to it.

In regard to your polite inquiry, I would say that I am not at present prepared to lecture, and it will, therefore, be out of my power the present season, especially as my time is absorbed on most pressing business.

I have had numerous applications of the same kind from all parts of the country, which makes it necessary for me to prepare if possible to comply with these requests at a future period so soon as I can find time to arrange the ample materials I have for the purpose.

In the meantime believe me with respect

Yr Ob Sert

Sam'l F. B. Morse.

Lobletto S. Durfee Esq.
New Bedford Lyceum Assoc.

New York Day Book.

Stop Sending your valuable
paper to me at 117 West 21st Street,
and send as formerly to me at
Po'keepsie after the 4th instant,
as I return to the Country on
Monday the 5th instant. —

Respectfully
Y. Obdt.
Sam'l F. B. Morse.

New York
No. 117 W. 21st Stret
Friday April 2. 1858.

New York Day Book,

Office.

S. T. B. Mear

New York Feb. 20th
1862

Dear Sir

I am sorry I am not able to comply with your request in your note of the 17th instant so far as sending you the autographs of distinguished persons. So many have anticipated you in this request that I have none left, which I can spare. They are all in the hands of autograph Collectors.

With respect
Y. Ob. Servt

Saml. F. B. Morse.

Philip L. Kelsler, Esq.
Cleveland, Ohio.

P.S. my brother R.C. Morse, has in his possession all my fathers' letters. When I see him, I will learn if one can be spared for you.

(over.)

Happening to look in one of my drawers before sealing, under the impression that I had some of my fathers letters filed there, I found the enclosed. My father's christian name was Jedidiah not Jeremiah as in your letter. —

Prof. S. F. B. Morse.
Feby. 20, 1862,

5 9

Pokepsie Sept.r 25.th 1865.-

My dear Sir,

You are aware that my brothers Sidney and Richard, (especially the latter,) have been long engaged in arranging the Papers of my venerated father for the purpose of writing and publishing his Biography, which I think is demanded peculiarly, at this time.

My brother Richard feels himself incompetent to proceed further, yet his labors up to this point have been plenteiring and invaluable, for I understand he has so arranged documents & correspondence, that it is now comparatively an easy task for one accustomed to biographical writing to put them in proper shape.-

Neither my brother Sidney, nor myself are in a situation to undertake this duty, and in looking about for one capable of completing this biography, there is no one to whom we would confide the undertaking, who so completely combines in himself, all the desired requisites for such a work, as yourself. Your eminent abilities, your experience, your high and honorable character, your Christian discernment, and your impartiality, connected

nected with the agreeable fact of your friendship for us, uninterrupted for so many years, have naturally suggested to us that you might find it an agreeable labor, and in the path of your own pursuits, to undertake the writing of the Biography. We are very desirous that no longer delay should occur in its publication, and think that it might be prepared for its appearance about next Christmas.

Will you give the subject your thought, my dear Sir, and express your feelings and wishes respecting aid & conditions, unreservedly. —

With sincere respect & esteem
Yours friend & Servt.
Sam'l F. B. Morse.

Rev. Wm B. Sprague, D.D.
Albany.

Zes (Cw 70/5)
(3 pc)

To the eminent autograph collector Dr. Wm. B. Sprague.

5 West 22d St

Jany. 30. 1866

My dear Sir,

I regret that engagements in a Board of Directors which will occupy me all day, and from which I cannot be excused, will prevent me from seeing you at 3 o'clock as you requested in your note, but if you will come in, in the evening, I shall have a party of gentlemen assembled to meet the distinguished Professor Guyot, and I can find a moment to see and talk with you. Pray come for I wish to see you for your mother's sake, and I will arrange to give you all the facilities you wish.— Truly Yrs &c

Don't fail to come at 8 o'clock.

Chas. W. Pickering.

Sam. F. B. Morse.

S. F. B. Morse
Sept 23. 1865

Poughkeepsie Sept. 23.
1865

Messrs. Wilber, Elsworth & Wilkinson

Gentlemen,

The matter respecting
Mr. Smith's demand upon me
is in the hands of Jacob B.
Jewett, Esq. with whom please
confer.

Respectfully
Yr. Ob. Svt
Sam. F. B. Morse.

10—

Prof S. F. B. Morse,
March 18/65.

New York March 18. 1865
5. West 22.d St.

Dear Sir,

Some time since we had a correspondence respecting the family of "Earle" in England, and I referred you to Admiral Sir William Smyth of London who kindly replied to you and gave you some interesting information.

A few days ago I met with Major N. Smyth of the British Army, Royal Artillery, and had a pleasant interview with him. He is the Son of the Admiral, and being in service in Canada, has leave to travel in this country. He goes to the front of the Army of the Potomac on Tuesday; will be absent some days, and then return to N. York.

I have thought it might be agreeable to you that you should meet him. How can it be brought about? When he returns from Washington, he will notify me of his return.

Can you then on being apprized of his return, meet him in New York? If so I will report to you his arrival.

Have you a Telegraph Station in your place? If so I will send you a Telegram, when he arrives, and you can telegraph to me. My telegrams are free.

Respectfully

Y. Obedient

Sam. F. B. Morse

Pliny Earle. Esq
Leicester. mass.

un male di pericolo. Io sto bene così spero di Voi e della Signora Mannina e d'Achille, e salutandovi entrambi credetemi

il Vostro Dev.mo Servo

G.i Morelli

Pregmo Sig.r Rosselli

Roma 12/8 68

Ieri ho ricevuta una lettera a voi diretta dall'America e conoscendo bene che era lettera d'Affari di Studio mi son preso la libertà d'aprirla e così tradurla in Italiano; la seguente è la traduzione.

Caro Signore

Pokeepsie New York

Luglio 21 1868

La vostra lettera del 1° Luglio direttami a Parigi l'ho ricevuta al presente per mezzo del Sig.r Norton & C.a come fu anche quella del 2 Giugno alla quale la seguente è una copia della risposta.

Pokeepsie

Caro Signore

Luglio 7 1868

Mi dispiace che la combinazione abbia voluto che un mio amico che io incontrai a Parigi ed ora ritornato da Roma possa avervi lasciato sotto l'aspettazione ch'io avessi voluto acquistare le vostre belle Statue

Il Telegrafo e la Ferrovia.

Il Sig.r e la Sig.ra Austin nel loro entusiasmo e giusta ammirazione di questi risultati del vostro genio mi mostrarono le Fotografie di queste Statue e mi dissero „ Sì voi dovete Acquistarle „ Io risposi " Che erano veramente belle ma che io non potessi nudrire l'idea di farne l'Acquisto anche ad un mite prezzo " Qual'è questo prezzo ? " Supponevo certamente che essi lo conoscessero.

Io non avevo la minima idea, che questo discorso fatto a caso vi fosse riferito a voi in Roma e farvi supporre che io seriamente intendevo negoziarne l'Acquisto.

Gradevole sarebbe per me di possedere la Statua chiamata il Telegrafo, ma i miei Affari sono in una condizione che non mi permettono di nudrire una tale speranza.

La vostra lettera del 2 giugno direttami a Parigi, mi è giunta al di qua dell'Oceano e percio si spiega facilmente la dilazione delle risposte.

Con rispetto
il Vostro, obidiente Servo
Samuel F. B Morse

La dilazione nel ricevere le vostre lettere e le mie risposte sono spiegate dalla mia partenza dalla Francia il 23 Maggio e per conseguenza le vostre lettere hanno dovuto camminare migliara invece di Centinara di Miglia.

Qui acclusa vi mando anche la lettera di Morse, dalla quale si capisce bene che è stata tutta una premura del Corriere e non di Morse per l'Acquisto di queste Statue, il Corriere sentendo fare questo discorso, che son sicuro che non capì il discorso antecedente ma capì il solo fine cioè che Morse domandò il prezzo ed egli credette che l'avesse domandato per farne l'Acquisto.

Tanto a Casa come a Studio tutto cammina in Regola, le vostre Figliette ancora anno la tosse e specialmente alla Pupetta pare che gli ingagliardisca ma non ce da prenderzi pena per questo non essendo

Pokeepsie, New York
July 21st. 1868.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 1st. instant directed to me at Paris, has this moment been received forwarded by Msrs. Morton & Co., as was also your letter of 2d June, to which the following is a copy of the reply;

"Pokeepsie, July 7. 1868.

Dear Sir, I regret that a casual inquiry of a friend whom I met in Paris just returned from Rome, respecting the price of your beautiful statues "The Telegraph" and the "Railway" should have excited the expectation that I contemplated their purchase.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin in their enthusiasm and just admiration of these results of your genius showed me the photographs of the Statues, and said "Uncle you ought to have them".

I replied, "they are very beautiful
" but I cannot afford the means
" of purchasing them, even at a very
" low price. What is the price?"
supposing of course that they knew
I had not the remotest idea that this
casual question would be sent to
you at Rome and raise expectations
that I was seriously intending to ne-
gotiate for their purchase.

Gratifying as it would be to me to
possess the one called the "Telegraph"
my affairs are in a condition which
forbids the indulgence of any such
hope. —

Your letter of June 2. directed
to me in Paris reached me on this
side of the water, which will ex-
plain this delay in sending a
reply With respect Yr Obt Sert.

Saml. F. B. Morse.

Signor
Antonio Rossetti
Scultore
Roma.

The delays in the receipt of your
letters and my replies, are explained
by the fact of my leaving France on
the 23 May, and consequently your
letter had to be conveyed thousands in-
stead of hundreds of miles. —

3 pc

Interesting contents

New York, Feb.ᶜ 17. 1871

Dear Sir,

In reply to your queries in your letter of the 15th instant I would refer you to the work of Gen.ˡ Thomas S. Cummings, entitled "Historic Annals of the National Academy of Design" an octavo volume of 364 pages printed and published in Philadelphia in 1865 by Geo. W. Childs 628 & 630 Chestnut Street.

In this work you will find the Discourse which I delivered at the inauguration of the Academy, in full. The Reply to Art. X. N.° 58 North Amer. Review 1828. as well as the Article itself is also there recorded in full. The Article in question is the

North Amer. Review was from the pen of an eminent lawyer of Boston, Franklin Dexter Esq now deceased, he was a great lover of Art, intimate with Allston, and a warm personal friend of mine; our controversy created no estrangement, but in friendly discussion afterwards he acknowledged that I had the best of the argument. Time I think has confirmed this opinion.

In regard to the letter from "Jos. Strickland to S. F. B. Morse" &c. it is not in Cummings Annals, nor can I lay my hand on a copy of it. I think the Author was an old friend and College mate of mine Dr. James E. Dekay, mentioned in Cummings Annals at page 229. —

Of the last mentioned article about which you inquire, I wit; Memphremagog 1828. I have lost all recollection, but if you have access to files of N York American and of the N.Y. Evening Post of that year the article may perhaps be found, but the author if I ever knew has passed from my memory.

I should be most happy to a copy of your Discourse on Vet. Planck, and shall value it highly. —

With respect
Y. Ob. Sert.
Sam. F. B. Morse.

Chas. Henry Hart, Esq
Phil.

Poughkeepsie June 17. 1868.

My dear Sir

I have received the invi-
tation to attend the Commence-
ment of the University on the
18th (to-morrow,) I was exceedingly
desirous of being present, but the
unusual pressure of cares, con-
sequent on my recent return
to my Country and the necessity
for immediate attention to
the putting of my affairs into
regular order, deprive me of
the pleasure I had anticipa-
ted of being with you on the
interesting Anniversary.

With kind regards to all
friends in the University
I am with sincere respect
Yours.

Chancellor Ferris.

Sam'l F. B. Morse.

6 5e

Poughkeepsie Nov.r 19. 1849

Dear Sir,

I have just received a letter from Mr. Wood in Washington, he says that "Bain was told at the Patent Office that he held no Patent recognized by the Office, and that the application of R. Smith for a Patent has been refused."

What face does this put upon the matter?

I wait with anxiety to hear the result of decision by Judge Nelson.

If possible by all means Compromise with the Western people, the moral effect just now, from our superior position, will be worth more to us than any immediate pecuniary benefit and in the end will unquestionably bring that result in its train. —

In haste but Truly Yours Friend & Servt

Sam.l F. B. Morse

Three of the original type for
the Electro Magnetic Telegraph cast
in Novr. 1832.

Saml. F. B. Morse.

Exficiere der elektromagnetischen Telegraphen
[illegible]
1791 —

Isaac Wayne

PRIVATE CIRCULAR

To the Members of the Association for procuring from me an Historical Painting.

To A. J. Davis, Esq.

New York, Nov. 30, 1841.

Dear Sir,—In the year 1837, an Association was formed, of which you were a member, for the purpose of commissioning me to execute a large Historical picture. Forty-five shares, of $50 each share, were subscribed, payable by $5 per share quarterly, making a total of $2250, or $225 per quarter.

On calling for the *first* instalment from the subscribers, there were but..... $205
dollars collected, leaving a deficit for the first quarter of.....20 dollars.

On the *second* instalment, but..... 170
dollars were collected, leaving a deficit on the second quarter of.....55 dollars.

On the *third* instalment, but..... 135
dollars were collected, leaving a deficit on the third quarter of.....90 dollars.

thus making on the three instalments a Total deficit of.....165 dollars!!

Total collected,..... $510

This diminution in such a rapid ratio of the collections of a quarterly sum, small at most, alarmed me, and I found it necessary seriously to calculate the cost of the enterprise in which I had embarked. Having no means aside from this subscription, it was indispensably necessary to be assured of sufficient capital before I could advance another step. At this juncture, my attention was directed by a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, to my invention of the Electro-magnetic Telegraph, made several years before. The attention of the government being directed to this subject, the Telegraph offered in the opinion of my friends, the readiest and quickest mode of supplying myself with means for a future prosecution of my commission. I accordingly at once requested the Treasurer of the Association to cease from collecting any more quarterly instalments, until I had ascertained my prospects with the Telegraph. I need not give the details of more than three years labors, hopes, and disappointments, in waiting for the action of our own and foreign governments. It is sufficient to say that my expectations, or rather those of my friends, so far as pecuniary profit is concerned, have been vain. I have as yet not realized one cent, and I thus find myself farther from my object than ever. Upon deliberately considering the matter, the last winter and spring, I came to the determination, in the first place, to free myself from the pecuniary obligation under which I had so long lain to my friends of the Association, and I commenced a system of economy and retrenchment, by which I hoped gradually to amass the necessary sum for that purpose, which sum it will be seen amounts in the aggregate to $510. Three hundred dollars of this sum I had already laid aside, when an article in the N. York Mirror of the 16th Oct. determined me at once to commence the refunding of the funds received. In compliance with this determination, I have the pleasure herewith to send you fifteen dollars being the amount collected from you for three instalments on one share according to the Treasurer's account rendered to me.

I return this sum with many thanks for your kind intentions, sincerely regretting that circumstances beyond my control should have prevented the accomplishment of my wishes and those of my friends. Although as yet frustrated, I do not entirely despair. A sense of pecuniary obligation is of all things to me most fatal to that independence of mind which is absolutely necessary to a free exercise of its higher powers, and in thus freeing myself from this obligation, I hope you will see in it the evidence, *not that I abandon my enterprise.* nor that I am insensible to those other obligations which gratitude towards each, and all of the Association imposes, but, (as matters now stand,) that I have taken the first necessary step to the final accomplishment of my design.

With sincere respect, your most obedient servant,

Sam'l F. B. Morse.

$15.00

41

☞ Please sign and transmit to me the following receipt

Respectfully

Y. Ob. Serv.

Sam.l F. B. Morse.

62

With Sincere respect
and Esteem Y. Obsew.
Sam. F. B. Morse.

Written
~~to Mrs A H Dana~~
Mrs Matilda
Walker Dana,
letter of condolence
on death of
Mr Dana
— from Mrs Seve[r]

Sam'l F. B. Morse.

with the kind
wishes of
Saml. F. B. Morse
of New York

Dresden Dec.' 20."
1839.

50
12

T M. Arago

My Dear Sir,

This note will be handed you by a young friend of mine, Mr. William A. Butler of this city, the Son of one of our most worthy and distinguished citizens Benj^{a} F. Butler, Esq. for many years occupying the responsible Station of Attorney General of the United States under the Presidency of General Jackson; Mr. Butler visits Paris for information on literary & Scientific Subjects, and although I am aware that a liberality unequalled in any other part of the world exists in Paris in regard to the freeness of access to all the Repositories of Art & Science so concentrated there, yet may I ask your kind introduction for Mr. Butler to the Sessions of The Academy of Sciences, and such other places of scientific interest as he may wish. He is a gentleman of high character, and a numerous circle of friends feel the deepest interest in his welfare.

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I have been looking with much anxiety for the report of the Commissioners both of the Academy of Sciences & of the Chamber of Deputies. From the dispositions already shown towards me in France and from the high character for honor of the French nation I cannot doubt of receiving ample justice at its hands.

Believe me dear Sir
With the highest respect and personal
esteem R ob Servt
Saml F.B.Morse
Superint: U.States Magnetic Telegraph

New York July 13, 1846

MORSE, SAMUEL F. B. A. L. S. to an unnamed person. 2 pp, 4to.
Poughkeepsie, July 22, 1851.

Pdkeepsie, July 22, 1851.

Dear Sir:

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From the tone of the Herald Article (which I presume was written by some person so unfortunate as to own House or Bain stock and for the purpose either of depreciating the Stock in my lines, that he may purchase, or to effect a consolidation of the abortive rival lines, opposing mine with mine, which rival lines are losing concerns, while mine are productive lines) I should think there might be some timid stockholders in those of my lines in which your friend would wish to purchase who would , under the influence of that article part with their stock at a price which, with my knowledge of the actual condition of it, I would not think a moment of parting with mine.-- Instead of the "worst stock in the country" (as the writer designates Telegraph Stock and which is doubtless true of the House and Bain Stock,) I consider the Stock in my lines as the best stock in the country , and feel willing to let my property rest in that stock, while of course I would not object to part with some of it for other property of equal value.--

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The price to consist of two thirds cash on the transfer of the Stock, and the balance of good bond & mortgage on real estate in New York City. I will allow(5) five per cent to you on the amount sold, only provided the whole sale is satisfactorily and entirely completed by the 15th of August, 1851.

Your Ob Servt.

<u>Sam[l] F. B. Morse.</u>

(*) I have now no stock in the Mag. Teleg. Co.

(the Washn. & N.York line.).-

(In another hand) : Letter of Professor Morse relative to exchanging some telegraph stock.
July 22, 1851.

To Mr. Arago, Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences

On dispensing with wires beneath, through, or above the water in causing electricity to cross rivers.
By Samuel F. B. Morse, Professor in the University of the city of New York.

Sir - In the Congressional document, a copy of which I had the honor to present to you, and which contains my letter on the Magnetic Telegraph, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury of the U. States, there are the following paragraphs in relation to an experiment to test the practicability of dispensing with the use of wires in causing electricity to cross rivers.

See A

In these experiments I made use of an ordinary galvanometer, and under circumstances unfavorable for great exactness, my main object being at that time to ascertain the simple fact, whether by the arrangement I had conceived, electricity would cross the river.

I have hitherto published no speculation as to the reason of the fact, but I now ask permission to offer a solution of the phenomenon.

It is a law of electricity that it seeks to establish an equilibrium through the shortest distance and by means of the best conductor it can find.

Water is a conductor but compared with metal is many thousand times inferior. It has been ascertained (I think by the ingenious Prof. Steinheil of Munich) that the volume of earth or water contained between two distant plates of metal has its capacity for conducting electricity increased in proportion to the size of these plates; so that supposing the conductibility of the earth to be 1 as compared with a wire which is 100, the earth between two plates of metal whose surfaces shall each be equal to one hundred times the area of a section of the wire, will contain a volume of earth of equal conductibility with the wire.

In the above diagram the shortest distance between the two poles of the battery P.N. is from the positive pole P through h to g and to the negative pole N, the water being one-half the circuit. But the water is many thousand times inferior to wire in conductibility, so that if I can offer a wire

conductor with a shorter distance of water conduction the electricity will take the shorter distance of water and this wire in preference.

This arrangement I make, by causing f through E to i on the opposite bank of the river to be more than double the distance from g to f. The electric fluid in passing from g to f and from i to h travels a shorter distance through a bad conductor (the water) than in passing from g to h and will, therefore, cross the river.

If this solution is correct, however, the plates g and h may be made so large on Prof. Steinheil's principle that the volume of water between them shall be of equal conducting power with the wire, and then the electricity should not cross the river, but should pass directly from g to h - I have not tested this, however, by experiment.

With great respect, Sir,

Yr. Mo. Ob. Serv.

Sam. F. B. Morse

Paris, Nov. 10, 1845

New York March 18, 1865

5 West 22d. St.

Dear Sir,

Some time since we had a correspondence respecting the family of "Earle" in England, and I referred you to Admiral Sir William Smyth of London who kindly replied to you and gave you Some interesting information.

A few days ago I met with Major H. Smyth of the British Army, Royal Artillery, and had a pleasant interview with him. He is the Son of the Admiral, and being in Service in Canada, has leave to Travel in this country. He goes to the front of the Army of the Potomac On Tuesday; will be absent some days, and then return to N. York. I have thought it might be agreeable to you that you should meet him. How can it be brought about? When he returns from Washington, he will notify me of his return.

Can you then on being apprized of his return, meet him in New York? If so I will report to you his arrival.

Have you a Telegraph Station in your place? If so I will send you a telegram, when he arrives, and you can telegraph to me. My telegrams are free.

Respectfully

Yr. Ob. Servt.

Saml. F. B. Morse

Pliny Earle, Esq.

Leicester, Mass.

Pokeepsie March 6, 1851

My dear Sir,

I found yours of the 1st inst. on my return. I have but a moment to write, so excuse its desultory character.

I have no idea of a forced sale of Stock in my hands as collateral Security, nor ever had, except on contingencies not expected. What I do wish, however, is such a Statement of my Telegraph Affairs, that I may know how I stand with Mr. Kendall and all the world. I am at present in more Straitened circumstances than ever before, comparatively, from the perfect stagnation of all receipts from every quarter. Hence I wish to know my prospects & my liabilities, that I may be able to provide things honest in the sight of all men. My position is peculiar in this respect, that the profession of my life, whereby I lived, was sacrificed to establish the Telegraph; it is a profession that can scarcely be resumed after so long a recess, at any time of life. I am, therefore, dependent on the dividends of my Patent fee Stock. When these stop, I am without funds; you can easily see then how heavily this dividend drought presses upon me.

I have ever had, and still have, the most unbounded confidence in Mr. Kendall. Tell him when he returns that I have been hard at work almost day & night in the preparation to meet the adversaries of my Patent, at Phil^{a} in the next month, and have now every reason to believe they will be discomfitted in that Trial. They had calculated much on Prof. Rinwick; Prof. Ellet,

and Dr. Chilton, but I visited them when last down explained my experiments, they tried them, and all were found correct, so that instead of supporting Bain with his certificate of "two of Englands best chemists," their evidence will be in my favor. The counsel of Bain here could not refrain from letting out to the counsel of the Mag. Tel. Co. their mortification at the result, accusing us of tampering with their witnesses; in other words, by showing them the truth, preventing them from committing themselves on the side of error. --

Your enclosed note was sent toMiss Ruggles, my niece Miss Charlotte Morse, is not here. She returned with me to New York when I went down the last time. Elizabeth is well, and directs the household of her parents, with ease and good judgment, and it is a household of no small dimensions. --

Make my kindest regards to Miss Annie Ellsworth, to Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Gale and Dr. & Mrs. Page, and to Mr. Kendall and his family. --

I hope your own health will improve with the progress of the Season. In April I shall probably visit Phil^{a} to be present at the trial, although I ought to be <u>home</u> at that time for <u>Special</u> reasons.

My Sweet wife and her rosy boy are well, and make delightful sunshine within, however dark and lowering without. When I look at them, I feel many twinges of conscience, that my pen should ever record a word of repining against the Giver, the merciful giver of such blessings.

But good bye

In haste but truly as ever

y^{r} friend

Sam. F. B. Morse

Peter Schlemihl, Esq.

SAMUEL FINLEY BREESE MORSE
(1791 1872)

American inventor and painter, born at Charlestown, Massachusetts, and educated at Yale. He began his career as an artist, studying in England with Washington Allston.

Upon his return to the United States in 1815, he began his career as a portrait painter, and became prominent and successful. He was one of the founders of the National Academy of Design in 1825, and spent the years 1829-1832 in Europe, engaged in further study.

As a college student, Morse had become interested in electrical phenomena, an interest which became greater because of the lectures of James F. Dana in 1827. The idea for an electric telegraph first came to him in 1832, and for the next twelve years, aided by Joseph Henry, the leading authority on electricity in America, Leonard Gale, and Alfred Vail, he worked to perfect his instrument, perfecting it, and securing patents.

He was able to demonstrate the telegraph successfully to Congress in 1844, sending messages from Washington to Baltimore. Despite many lawsuits, his rights were upheld. He worked further on submarine cable telegraphy, and with his colleague of New York University, John W. Draper, he introduced daguerreotypy into the United States.

AUTOGRAPHE

de

Morse

Samuel, Finley, Breese

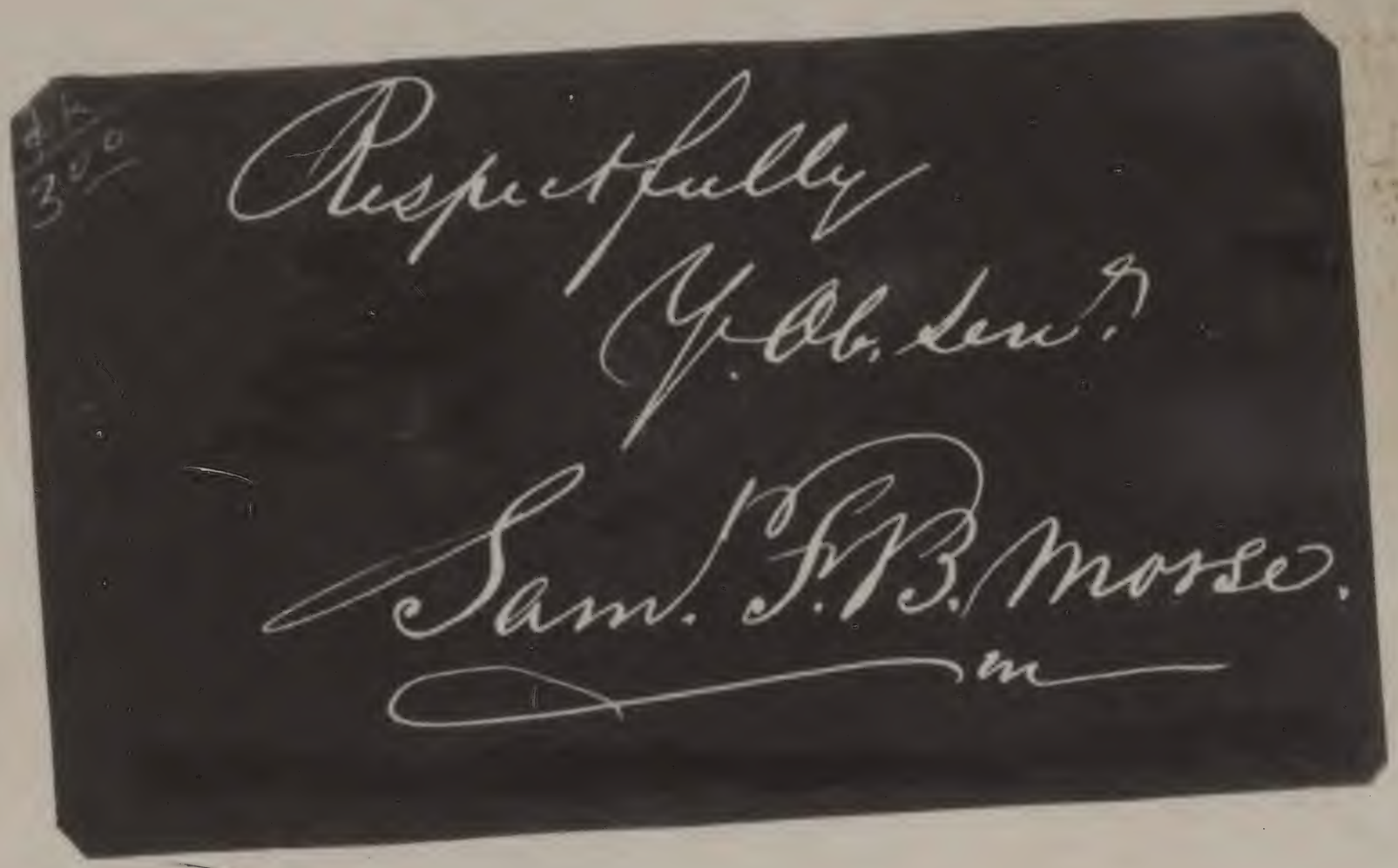
OBSERVATIONS

1.) L.a.s. 1 p. 8° Locust Grove 26. VIII. 1865 an J. Pompkins, Poughkeepsie Tel. Office, verspricht, sich dem Telegraphenbüreau den Apparat nächsten Tage anzusehen.

2.) Ein Stück Papier ca 1 p. 4° auf dem sich die von Morse eigenhändig geschriebene Bemerkung befindet, dass in diesem Stück Papier drei Originaltypen des Telegraphen im Nov. 1832 eingewickelt waren. Eigh. Unterschrift.

Beide Stücke aus Sammlung Dr. K. Loewenfeld Hamburg.

Mitbegründer der elektr. Telegraphie, geb. 27. IV 1791 in Charlestown (Massachusetts) zuerst Maler, 1811-1813 in London, dann ambulanter Maler in New Hampshire (Carolina) u. N. York 1825 Gründung einer Malervereinigung in N.Y. (später National Ac. of design) von 1829 bis 1832 zu Studienzwecken in Europa, faßte auf Rückreise erste Idee zu seinem Drucktelegraphen, 1835 sein Apparat N.Y. ausgestellt, 1837 am. Patent. 1843 mit Unterstütz. der Regierung Versuchslinie zw. Washington u. Baltimore, erste Depesche 27. V. 1844, dann Direktor bei „N. York and Newfoundland Tel. Cy" u. Prof. d. Naturgeschichte am Yale College in New-Haven, 1857 von den 10 vereinigten Staaten v. Europa Ehrengeschenk frs. 400.000, lebte im Ruhestand zu Poughkeepsie bei N.Y., gest. 2. IV. 1872.



dk
3.00

Respectfully
Y. Ob. Serv.
Sam.l F. B. Morse.

MORSE, Samuel

A. L. S. dated April 2,1858
concerning a paper

MORSE, Samuel

a. l. s. dated Feb.20,1862

MORSE, Samuel, F. B.

Photo and A.L.S. dated
Dec. 20, 1867

MORSE, Samuel

A. L. S. with Italian translation

MORSE, Samuel
Inventor
1791-1872

A. L. S. to Mr. Arago
dated July 13, 1846

MORSE, Samuel

L. S. dated Nov. 30, 1841

MORZE

[90] MORSE, SAMUEL F. B. Inventor of the telegraph. Fine, lengthy ALS, 2pp, 8vo. Poughkeepsie, N.Y. July 21, 1868. To Signor Antonio Rossetti, Sculptor, Rome. Morse explains that he had answered Signor Rossetti's letter on July 7th; then completely rewrites that letter for Sig. Rossetti's benefit (2 full pages). In the letter, Morse deplores being unable to afford the purchase of Rossetti's statues, "THE TELEGRAPH" and "THE RAILWAY." He continues:- "Mr. and Mrs. Austin in their enthusiasm and admiration of your genius showed me the photographs of the statues and said, 'Uncle, you ought to have them.' ..... Gratifying as it would be to me to possess the one called 'THE TELEGRAPH,' my affairs are in a condition which forbids the indulgence of any such hope," ... etc.

Interesting letter: $17.50

Fine Political Letter, written during President Taft's incumbency, shortly before the Republican Presidential Convention of 1912. To Will Craig, Jr. Philadelphia. "You were more than complimentary to me in the matter of invitations to make addresses, and I would like to show my appreciation by writing you a favorable reply. But I can't do it this time. All the time I can spare for SPEECHMAKING, up to July, is booked. I do not mean to convey that there is a great demand, but I happen to have two or three engagements for each month, which takes all the time I can take from my business. If PRESIDENT TAFT is renominated, FOR WHICH I AM EARNESTLY HOPING, I promise to address your League sometime DURING THE CAMPAIGN, which can be dated to our mutual convenience."

Quite scarce in ALS: $90.00

MORSE, SAMUEL FINLEY BREESE. [American Inventor-Artist-Business man, 1791-1872.]

AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED *"Sam F. B. Morse. Superint: U. States Magnetic Telegraphs."* Two pages, quarto. New York, July 13, 1846. To Mr. Arago, of Paris.

A REMARKABLY IMPORTANT LETTER REPORTING THE PROGRESS OF THE TELEGRAPH IN AMERICA TO A FRENCH FRIEND OF THE WRITER. The initial paragraph is a letter of introduction, but the remainder of the letter reads, in part, as follows: *"I have had the honor to communicate to you at various times the progress of my Telegraph in the U. States. Since my last communication, the Albany & Buffalo line which was in progress has been completed,* 350 *miles, and a letter just received from the Prest. of the Co. says 'it works well'. The line from New York to Washn. about* 230 *miles is in daily and successful operation. It is the medium of all the most important intelligence from the Seat of Govt. of much commercial business and social correspondence."*

~~BAS~~

See Kendall, Amos for letter concerning

Samuel Morse

NASMYTH, James.

323 **MORSE, S. F. B.** Artist; Inventor. Very fine, small, photograph signed in lower margin. On the reverse is an inscription of 6 lines, also signed and dated 1867. $12.50

349 **PALMERSTON, VISCOUNT** [1784-1865]. One of the great statesmen of his time. A.L.S., one page, 1859. $2.00

350 **[PAPYRUS CLUB].** Founded in

MORSE, SAMUEL F. B. 1791-1872. American painter; inventor of telegraph and Morse Code. Autograph Letter Signed. 1 very full p., 8vo. Po'keepsie, November 19, 1869. Morse had much difficulty in receiving a patent for his invention. He quotes part of a letter from Mr. Wood of Washington: "...'Bain was told at the Patent Office that he held no Patent recognized by the Office, and that the application of R. Smith for a Patent has been refused.'...I wait with anxiety to hear the result of decision by Judge Nelson..." Morse tells his correspondent to compromise if possible with Western [Union]: "...the moral effect just now, from our superior position, will be worth more to us than any immediate pecuniary benefit..." Excellent content showing just part of the frustration Morse suffered over his invention. With portrait. 150.00

Rickards - 70

army. Autograph Letter Signed "Arthur Wellesley". 3 1/2pp., 4to. Badajoz, Septembe
1809. To Admiral Berkeley who, as commander of the British Fleet in the area, was in
charge of the vital supply line on which Wellington depended to fight a land war far
from home. A long letter in which Wellington discusses mainly the movement of suppli
and payment for various goods. He also orders the Commissary General to pay for some
mules. It was in the Peninsular War that Wellington won victory after victory and was
able to drive Napoleon's forces from Spain and Portugal. 65.00

SAMUEL F. B. MORSE

Telegraph inventor.

Autograph letter signed Jan. 31, 1857 declining to lecture until he can assemble "the ample materials I have for the purpose." $6.50

THOMAS HEYWARD, JR. Signer

Signature inlaid below Longacre's engraved portrait. $4.00

79

GARRET A. HOBART

Letter on Vice-President's stationery signed June 25, 1895 about an appointment

MORSE, S. F. B. A.L.S., one full page, 1888. GOODSPEED'S '51 [117] $6.50

ROBERTS, JOHN. 1775-1856. American naval officer, reputed to have fired the first shot in the War of 1812, gave distinguished service off Tripoli. L.S., one page, quarto. U. S. Constitution, New York

MORSE, SAMUEL F. B. American inventor of the magnetic telegraph system. Autograph Letter Signed, 2pp., 4to., Sept. 25, 1865. To Rev. Dr. William B. Sprague. FINE LETTER, in which Morse refers to various members of his family, extols Dr. Sprague's talents as a writer of biographies and urges him to undertake one of his father, Jedidiah Morse. He explains that his brother, Richard, had begun a biography- "feels incompetent to proceed further - Neither my brother Sidney nor myself are in a situation to undertake this duty ... " etc.

In Anal file.

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SAMUEL MORSE BEFORE THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE TRIUMPHAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH

THE PROTOCOL OF FRANCOIS ARAGO WITH HIS OWN COMMENTS IN AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT

(MORSE, Samuel F.B. and Dominique François ARAGO)

Physique appliquée Telegraphe électromagnetique de Mr. Morse, prof^r. à l'Université de New York. Manuscript of 8 pages (23½ x 18½ cm) written in Arago's own hand. Accompanied by an (unrelated) A.L.S. by François Arago to Milne Edwards, the well-known English natural scientist.

(Paris, September 1838)

The present protocol, a historic document for American science, was translated and ~~xxxxxxx~~ written by Francois Arago, the distinguished French physicist, following the demonstration by Samuel Morse of his newly invented electro-magnetic Telegraph before the French Academy of Sciences.

Samuel I. Prime, Life of Samuel F.B. Morse, p. 363:

"On the 4th day of September, 1838, Professor Morse had the honor and intense satisfaction of meeting M. Arago, the most eminent scientist in France, and of exhibiting to him in private the operation of his Telegraph. Arago was the man of all the men then living to comprehend and appreciate the wonderful invention. He gave it a thorough examination, questioned the inventor with great intensiveness, and declared himself satisfied with the results, and its capacity to do all that was claimed for it. He instantly proposed to introduce it to the Academy of Science, at their very next meeting, which was to be held the following Monday."

Samuel Morse. His Letters and Journals ed. by Ed. L. Morse, 1914, vol. II. p.107:

"On the 10th of September, 1838, Morse enjoyed the greatest triumph of all, for it was on that day that, by invitation of Monsieur Arago, the exhibition of his invention before the Institute de France, casually mentioned in one of his letters to his daughters, took place. Writing of the occassion to Alfred Vail, he says:

" 'I exhibited the Telegraph to the Institute and the sensation produced was as striking as at Washington. It was evident that hitherto the assembled science of Europe had considered the plan of an Electric Telegraph as ingenious but visionary, and, like aeronautical navigation, practicable in little more than theory and destined to be useless.

" 'I cannot describe to you the scene at the Institute when the box with the registering - machine, just as it left Speedwell, was placed upon the table and surrounded by the most distinguished men of all Europe, celebrated in the various arts and sciences - Arago, Baron Humboldt, Gay-Lussac and a host of others whose names are stars that shine in both hemispheres. Arago described it to them, and I showed its action. A buzz of admiration and approbation filled the whole hall and exclamations "Extraordinaire!" - "Très bien" - "Très admirable" I heard on all sides. The sentiment was universal".

The protocol here extant, translated by Arago into French and written and corrected in part in his own hand, reports this demonstation before the Institut de France. Under the title mentioned above is written the following note:

"L'Instrument a été mis en action sous les yeux del'academie. Voicé la traduction littérale d'une grande partie de la note que Mr. Morse a remise aux secretaires perpetuels.

"Mr. Morse croit que son instrument est la première <u>application</u> réalisable qui ait été faite de l'electricité à la construction d'un Télegraphe. Cet instrument fut inventé en October 1832, pendant que l'auteur se rendait d'Europe en Amérique sur le paquebot le <u>Sully</u>.

There follow the two wellknown affidavits given by Mr. River, American Minister to France and passenger on the SS. Sully, and the Captain of this boat, W. Pell, attesting the fact that the idea of the telegraph occured to Morse on board the SS. Sully and that they subsequently examined the instrument which Morse constructed. The following remarks trace the history of the electro-telegraphic idea to Dr.Coxe's article in the Annals of Dr. Thomson, and points to the rival discoveries of Steinheil of Munich and Wheatstone of London. It is pointed out, however, that Morse's system uses only one circuit. There follows a 3-page detailed description of Morse's system <u>in Arago own hand</u> and then a discussion of the demonstrations of its practicability which had previously been made:

"La distance à la quelle le télégraphe américain a été essayé est de dix milles anglais ou de quatre lievres de poste de France Les expériences ont eu pour témoins une commission de l'institut de Franklin de Philadelphie et un comité nommé par le congrès des Etats unis". (At the invitation of Robert M. Patterson, leading member of the Franklin Institute at Philadelphia, Morse had made a demonstration of the electric Telegraph on Feb. 8, 1838. "The committee reported their high gratification with Prof. Morse's Telegraph, and their hope that the government would give him the means to test it upon an extensive scale". The report was signed by 8 outstanding members of the Franklin Institute).

Our protocol goes on to say: "Le comité du Congrés a proposé de consacrer trente mille dollars (150 mille francs) a une experience en grand de ce nouveau mode de communication. La dépense de construction du nouveau système télégraphique ferait, suivant Mr. Morse de 3900 francs par mille anglais...Mr. Morse pense que ces fils une fois placés dureraient un demi-siècle, à moins que la malveillance ne les brisat."

"On doit remarquer que si le réseau etait complet, les nouvelles pourraient alles d'une ville à une autre par plusieurs directions sans perde de temps appréciable. Il est inutile de dire que ce mode de communicationx a sur les télégraphes ordinaires l'avantage dde pouvoir servir de nuit comme de jour, par la pluie et par le brouillard comme par un temps serein."

Besides the letter of Samuel Morse to Alexander Vail, quoted on pp.1-2 above, there exist two other descriptions of the demonstration before the Institut de France, one in a letter of Morse to his daughter, dated September 29, 1838 (see Journals, II, pp.104 ff). and a letter by ~~the American~~ the Honorable H.L. Ellsworth, then in Paris:

"I am sure you will be glad to hear that our American friend, Professor Morse, is producing a very great sensation among the learned men of this kingdom by his ingenious and wonderful magnetic telegraph. He submitted it to the examination of the Academy of Sciences of the Royal Institute of France, at their sitting on Monday last, and the deepest interest was excited among the members of that learned body on the subject. Its novelty, beauty, simplicity and power was highly recommended. Other projects for the establishment of a magnetic telegraph have been broached here, especially from Professor Wheatstone of London and Professor Steinheil of Munich. It is said, however, to be very manifest, that our Yankee Professor is ahead of them all in the essential requisition of such an invention and that he is in the way to bear the off the palm. In simplicity of design, cheapness of construction and efficiency, Professor Morse's Telegraph transcends all yet made known. In each of these qualities it is admitted by those who have inspected it closely, there seems to be little else to desire. It is certain, moreover, that in priority of discovery he antedates all the others".

ARAGO'S SCIENTIFIC PROTOCOL OF MORSE'S DEMONSTRATION, THE DEMONSTRATION WHICH ESTABLISHED THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH AS A PRACTICAL INVENTION IN THE MINDS OF THE GREATEST SCIENTISTS OF THE TIME, MUST BE CONSIDERED A DOCUMENT OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE IN ITS FIELD. Next to Franklin's discovery of the lightening rod, it was the first great American ~~xxxxxxxx~~ scientific invention and is here recorded by one of France's greatest physicists, Dominique-Frainçois Arago.

T M. Arago

My Dear Sir,

This note will be handed you by a young friend of mine, Mr. William A. Butler of this city, the Son of one of our most worthy and distinguished citizens Benj$ F. Butler, Esq. for many years occupying the responsible Station of Attorney General of the United States under the Presidency of General Jackson; Mr. Butler visits Paris for information on literary & Scientific Subjects, and although I am aware that a liberality unequalled in any other part of the world exists in Paris in regard to the freeness of access to all the Repositories of Art & Science so concentrated there, yet may I ask your kind introduction for Mr. Butler to the Sessions of The Academy of Sciences, and such other places of scientific interest as he may wish. He is a gentleman of high character, and a numerous circle of friends feel the deepest interest in his welfare.

I have had the honor to communicate to you at various times the progress of my Telegraph in the U. States. Since my last communication, the Albany & Buffalo line which was in progress has been completed, 350 miles, and a letter just received from the Pres$ of the CO says "it works well." The N.Y. and Boston line is also completed, 220 miles, and by the 1st of Aug. the N.Y. & Albany line 150 miles will be completed. The line from New York to Wash$ about 230 miles is in daily and successful operation. It is the medium of all the most important intelligence from the Seat of Govt of much commercial business and Social correspondence. Already are the effects of the Telegraph manifest upon the Newspaper Press both in the great Cities and the country villages of the Western part of New York State. The larger City Journals which were relied upon in the country for the latest intelligence have become in respect of news of little value, and consequently their subscribers diminish, while the Country journals along the Telegraphic line having access instantly to the news at the moment it arrives at any great City, have I am told doubled and even trebled their subscribers. In evidence of what I have said I refer you to the piece headed Ithaca Chronicle". All the Newspapers from the West have captions or headings to their Columns "By Magnetic Telegraph" In large Characters. I send you a specimen or two to show you the usual style, and also the amount of matter which we usually transmit this being limited ordinarily by the expense of those who employ the Telegraph and not, by the impracticability of sending more.

I have been looking with much anxiety for the report of the Commissioners both of the Academy of Sciences & of the Chamber of Deputies. From the dispositions already shown towards me in France and from the high character for honor of the French nation I cannot doubt of receiving ample justice at its hands.

Believe me dear Sir
With the highest respect and personal
esteem R ob Servt
Samt F.B.Morse
Superint: U.States Magnetic Telegraph

New York July 15, 1846

To. M. Arago, Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences.—

On dispensing with wires beneath, through, or above the water in causing electricity to cross rivers. By Samuel F B. Morse, Professor in the University of the city of New York.—

Sir, In the Congressional document a copy of which I had the honor to present to you and which contains my letter on the Magnetic Telegraph, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury of the U. States, there are the following paragraphs in relation to an experiment to test the practicability of dispensing with the use of wires in causing electricity to cross rivers.

[sec A.]

In these experiments I made use of an ordinary galvanometer, and under circumstances unfavorable for great exactness, my main object being at that time to ascertain the simple fact, whether by the arrangement I had conceived, electricity would pass the river.

I have hitherto published no speculation as to the reason of the fact, but I now ask permission to offer a solution of the phenomenon.

It is a law of electricity that it seeks to establish an equilibrium through the shortest distance and by means of the best conductor it can find.

Water is a conductor but compared with metal

metal is many thousand times superior. It has been ascertained (I think by the ingenious Prof. Steinheil of Munich) that the volume of earth or water contained between two distant plates of metal has its capacity for conducting electricity increased in proportion to the size of these plates; so that supposing the conductibility of the earth to be 1 as compared with a wire which is 100, the earth between two plates of metal whose surfaces shall each be equal to one hundred times the area of a section of the wire, will contain a volume of earth of equal conductibility with the wire.

In the above diagram the shortest distance between the two poles of the battery P. N. is from the positive pole P. through H. to S. and to the negative pole N. the water being one half the circuit. But the water is many thousand times inferior to wire in conductibility, so that if I can offer a wire conductor with a shorter distance of water conduction the electricity will take the shorter distance of water and this wire in preference.

This arrangement I make, by causing f. through I. to i on the opposite bank of the river to be more than double the distance from g to f. The electric fluid in passing

from g. to f. and from i. to h. travels a shorter distance through a bad conductor (the water) than in passing from g. to h. and will, therefore, cross the river.

If this solution is correct, however, the plates g and h may be made so large on Prof. Steinheil's principle that the volume of water between them shall be of equal conducting power with the wire, and then the electricity should not cross the river, but should pass directly from g. to h. — I have not tested this, however, by experiment.

With great respect, Sir,
Y. Mo. Ob. Sert.
Sam. F. B. Morse.

Paris Nov. 10th 1845.

Washington March 6th 1845.

Dear Sir,

The Hon. Mr. Evans has handed me your letter of the 1st inst. and in reply I would say that had I the entire management of the property of the Telegraph I should make liberal and immediate arrangements for furnishing to Colleges, the apparatus necessary to explain its operations, but acting with others I am as yet unable to grant any facilities for that purpose. We are, however, intending to put matters in train for a vigorous prosecution of the subject in point of furnishing Colleges ing the operations of the Tele- . I will inform you of angements are made.—

th Sincere respect & esteem
Yr. Ob. Serv.t
Sam.l F. B. Morse.

Professor Cleaveland,
Brunswick, Me.

7173. MORSE (SAMUEL FINLEY BREESE), peintre américain, inventeur du télégraphe électrique qui porte son nom (1791-1872). Il obtint son brevet en 1840 et la ligne Washington-Baltimore fut inaugurée en 1844. Le télégraphe Morse ne fut adopté en France qu'en 1856. — Lettre autographe signée en anglais. Washington, 6 mars 1845. 1 page in-4. (Voir reproduction). 1.600 F

Lettre très importante. S'il avait l'entière propriété du Télégraphe, il s'arrangerait pour fournir aussitôt, et généreusement, aux collèges le matériel nécessaire pour expliquer son fonctionnement, Agissant avec d'autres, il ne peut pas encore accorder de facilités de ce genre. Mais il a l'intention d'y travailler énergiquement.

graphie signée. S. l. n. d. 2 pages 1/2 in-8. 180 F

Sur l'efficacité du sirop de goudron. « J'ai à vous offrir l'expérience d'Hardy et la mienne ». Il recommande un régime alimentaire modéré, « le repos physique et moral compatible avec une existence parisienne... »

11. — TROUSSEAU (Armand), l'un des meilleurs cliniciens français de son époque (1801-1867). — Lettre autographe signée. S. l. n. d. 1 page in-4. 200 F

Il demande à l'un de ses camarades d'être « aussi favorable que le comportera une indulgente et bienveillante équité » à un élève de l'école de Bordeaux, qui a fait de bonnes études médicales préparatoires.

Washington March 6th 1845.

Dear Sir,

The Hon. Mr. Evans has handed me your letter of the 1st inst. and in reply I would say that had I the entire management of the property of the Telegraph I should make liberal and immediate arrangements for furnishing to Colleges, the apparatus necessary to explain its operations, but acting with others I am as yet unable to grant any facilities for that purpose. We are, however, intending to put matters in train for a vigorous prosecution of the whole enterprise, and this point of furnishing Colleges with an apparatus for illustrating the operations of the Telegraph will not be overlooked. I will inform you of the result as soon as the arrangements are made.—

With sincere respect & esteem
Yr. Ob. Serv.t
Sam.l F. B. Morse.

Professor Cleaveland,
Brunswick, Me.

pages in-4. Avec enveloppe.

Il le remercie de lui avoir envoyé un article consacré à son « Jean Jacques de Nantes » (roman autobiographique paru en 1922). « Croyez bien que je n'ai pas oublié les amis de New York, qui avec un si cordial empressement nous ont aidé à passer agréablement le « temps d'exil »... Bien souvent le désir me vient de prendre le bateau et d'aller leur dire un affectueux bonjour dans l'Amérique — hélas ! sèche ».

5. — Album du Vieux Colombier, par *Fauconnet*. Imprimé à New York, 1918. 17 pages in-fol.

Portraits des fondateurs et amis du Vieux-Colombier. — Images de Limon, où fut réunie pour la première fois la Compagnie. — Cabinet de travail de Copeau au Limon. — Décor des Frères Karamazov, etc. *Guy-Pierre Fauconnet* (1882-1920) a dessiné aussi des costumes et des masques pour le théâtre.

7198. THIERS (ADOLPHE), homme politique, journaliste et historien (1797-1877). — Lettre autographe signée (probablement adressée au duc d'Orléans, fils aîné de Louis-Philippe). Saint James, 16 août 1836. 4 pages in-4. 350 F

Lettre importante, écrite quelques jours avant la démission de Thiers. Celui-ci était chef du gouvernement, avec le porte-feuille des Affaires Etrangères, depuis le mois de février de la même année 1836. Mais, alors qu'il voulait intervenir en Espagne contre les Carlistes, Louis-Philippe s'y opposa, et Thiers démissionna le 22 août. Il fut remplacé par Molé et devint dès lors l'adversaire implacable de ses successeurs. « La crise à l'occasion des affaires d'Espagne est arrivée. Le Roi résiste sur tous les détails d'exécution d'une manière désespérante. Evidemment il faut s'avouer la cause du mal, c'est le profond dissentiment qui existe entre lui et moi : il croit qu'il ne faut rien faire pour l'Espagne, je crois moi qu'il y a moyen et devoir de la sauver. Après une longue délibération avec moi-même j'ai pris mon parti, je vais demander au Roi ma retraite. Je le fais avec un profond regret car je tenais à ma position, beaucoup plus que jamais. Cependant il m'est impossible de m'associer à une politique que je regarde comme funeste... Tant que j'ai gardé une ombre d'espérance, j'ai surmonté le dégoût d'exercer un pouvoir sans cesse contrarié, mais je cède aujourd'hui à la démonstration évidente des résolutions du Roi. On n'y peut plus rien. Je déplore un si fatal aveuglement... C'est une grande folie d'abandonner le monde au hasard quand on pourrait si aisément le gouverner ».

7199. THIERS (ADOLPHE). Proscrit au 2-Décembre, il ne reparut comme député orléaniste qu'en 1863 et prit alors au Corps législatif un rang très important comme orateur. — 8 lettres autographes signées à Monsieur Dubochet. 1861-1869. Ensemble 18 pages in-8. 400 F

Monsieur *Dubochet* était président du conseil d'administration du Gaz de Paris, tandis que Thiers était président de la Compagnie des Mines d'Anzin. Il s'agit donc ici entre eux de fournitures de charbon,

autographe signée à un ami. Le Trayas, 5 mars 1916. 1 page 1/2 in-8. 100 F

Lettre émouvante écrite après la mort de sa mère. « Ce soir dans la solitude du Trayas où je suis venu chercher un refuge près de mon fils convalescent, je relis votre lettre sur « la grande protection de la Maman, — la dernière. Je garderai précieusement votre lettre comme le plus bel hommage rendu à la mère... Tout en vous est égal dans une même supériorité : talent, caractère et cœur ».

7201. VERGENNES (CHARLES GRAVIER, COMTE DE), ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Louis XVI (1717-1787).

1. — Lettre autographe. Stockholm, 14 février 1773. 4 pages in-4. 380 F

Vergennes, alors ambassadeur à Stockholm, exprime à son correspondant, qui a quitté la ville, tous les regrets qu'a laissés son départ. « Notre train de vie est le même, Monsieur, dont vous avés été le témoin, nous sommes toujours réduits à notre petit nombre... et la sociabilité n'a pas augmenté dans notre corps, chacun tient à son saint comme de coutume... ». Il le remercie des éloges flatteurs qui lui ont été prodigués. « Je justifierai toujours l'opinion que vous aves de mon cœur, je suis plus réservé par rapport a celle que vous vous formés de mes lumières et de ma bonne volonté. Celle-ci est entière pour concourir au bien possible, je puis répondre qu'elle ne s'afoiblira pas quoi que bien des choses pourroient contribuer a la refroidir... ».

2. — Lettre autographe signée à M. le marquis de Monteil, maréchal des camps et armées du Roi à Rome. Versailles, 13 mai 1776. 1 page 1/2 in-4. 250 F

« Vous connoissez Monsieur, la position d'un homme voüé aux affaires publiques et combien peu librement il dispose de son tems. Les soins que celles la exigent ne me detournent pas cependant si absolument de tout autre objet que je perde de vue ceux qui vous interessent... Comptes Monsieur, sur ma bonne volonté, c'est tout ce que je puis vous offrir de certain... ». Vergennes était ministre des Affaires Etrangères depuis juin 1774.

7202. VIGNETTE A LA PYRAMIDE. — Lettre signée du général *Vignolle,* chef de l'Etat-major général par intérim. Au quartier-général de Milan, 27 brumaire an 6 (17 novembre 1797). 1 page in-fol. En tête, *la magnifique vignette d'Alexandre Berthier dite « à la pyramide »*, gravée par Appiani (1ec état, Bop et Bonnet no 116). 380 F

En conséquence des ordres du général en chef, il est permis au citoyen *Suchet le jeune* de se rendre à Paris et d'y séjourner jusqu'à ce qu'il reçoive des ordres pour se rendre à l'armée d'Angleterre.

7203. WAGNER (COSIMA), fille de Liszt et de Madame d'Agoult, femme de Richard Wagner (1837-1930). Elle avait épousé en premières noces Hans von Bülow, dont elle se sépara en 1869, pour épouser Wagner en 1870. — Lettre signée en anglais. Bayreuth, 23 avril 1902. 2 pages in-8.